

**Enrollment Preferences Task Force Minutes: Meeting #10**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2015**  
**6:30 pm- Buena Vista Conference Center**

**Task Force members present:**

- Representative Kim Williams, Delaware House of Representatives, Co-Chair
- Senator Nicole Poore, Delaware State Senate, Co-Chair
- Representative Earl Jaques, Delaware House of Representatives
- Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association
- Susan Francis, Delaware School Board Association
- Dr. Mervin Daugherty, New Castle County Superintendent
- Dr. Matthew Donovan, Delaware Association of School Administrators
- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Kent County Superintendent
- Chuck Taylor, Charter School Network
- Dr. Victoria Gehrt, Superintendent from New Castle County Vo-Tech
- Dr. Allen Lathbury, Superintendent from Sussex Tech
- Mark Pruitt, Magnet School Representative
- Henry Clampitt, Charter School Representative
- Elizabeth Lockman, Parent Representative
- Catherine Hegedus, Parent Representative

**Staff present:**

- Fran Fletcher, University of Delaware
- Mark Brainard Jr., Delaware House of Representatives

**Members Absent:**

- Senator David Sokola, Delaware State Senate
- Secretary Mark Murphy, Delaware Department of Education
- Lindsay O'Mara, Governor's Office
- Randall Hughes, Delaware State Board of Education
- Yvonne Johnson, Delaware Parent Teacher Association
- Dr. David Ring Superintendent from Sussex County
- Julie Rumschlag, Magnet School Representative
- Terri Hancharick, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
- Dr. Deborah Zych, Superintendent from Polytech
- Gary Stockbridge, Delaware Business Roundtable
- Dr. Terri Hodges, Parent Representative
- Donald Mell, Charter School Representative

**Public attendees:**

- Kelly Sherretz, University of Delaware/IPA
- Kathy Demarest, New Castle County Vo-Tech
- Greg Meese, Newark Charter School
- Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
- Alfred Lance, Red Clay
- Joanne Schlosberg, Newark Charter School
- Jennifer Nagourney, Delaware Department of Education
- Donato Rufo, New Castle County Vo-Tech

---

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

## 1. Introduction

Representative Williams began the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with one typographical correction. Frederika Jenner made the motion that was seconded by Elizabeth Lockman and unanimously adopted by the task force. Representative Williams introduced Alex Medler from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, who would be giving a presentation to the task force.

## 2. Presentation

Alex Medler began his presentation by complimenting the task force for all the thorough and extensive research that had been done. He had looked at all the documents created since the task force's inception and was impressed by all the hard work. Mr. Medler then asked members of the task force what topics they would like him to cover. Among them included enrollment comparisons between magnet, vo-tech, and charter schools, oversight of enrollment preferences and practices, examples of equity issues that occur during enrollment, and the enrollment practices that work best nationwide.

Mr. Medler discussed the use of a strict lottery as a requirement for receiving federal start up grant funds. He pointed out that Delaware charter schools are ineligible for these federal grants due to the use of preferences. Mr. Medler pointed out that Delaware's charter law is unique in that it allows specific interest (which he characterized as inclusive of testing and performance-based assessment) as a preference. Most states do not. A strict lottery is considered best practice nationally to avoid the appearance of preferential admissions.

Mr. Medler discussed the best practices his organization has seen nationwide. One is the focus on accessible transportation for all students. Another is the need for a collaborative effort from cities, school districts, and states to access the need for specific programming in certain areas leading to an authorization process that brings all of these shareholders to the table. Additionally, if an at-risk group is underrepresented in a charter school population, it is considered best practice to give that population a double shot in the lottery. For example, if a school is using the ping pong ball method, then two balls are used for this student population. Mr. Medler further discussed that if geographic boundaries are indicated as a preference, it is common to use the district boundaries for a new charter school. If the charter is created from an existing school, students within the original school boundaries could be given preference. Typically, the most successful charter schools are usually part of the district in which they reside.

Mr. Medler offered the following suggestions to address some of Delaware's issues. A moratorium on new charter schools is usually be counterproductive and negatively impacts a community looking to fill an educational void. Delaware could create a waiver process that would require a new charter school to receive approval before using a performance or testing-based assessment during enrollment. Delaware law could also benefit from defining magnet schools in order to make clear where they differ from charter schools. A third party (such as NACSA) could also be helpful in facilitating future discussions between charter schools and the school districts in which they reside. If future changes in Delaware enrollment preferences will affect current schools, then those changes might be easier for the public to accept if the current schools are grandfathered to continue as they now operate and having the future changes only apply to new schools.

For more information on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, visit

<http://www.qualitycharters.org/>

Voting will conclude at the next meeting.

***\*Note: Digital copies of all the document pertaining to the task force can be found on***

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/TaskForces.nsf/113411bdd5de74d385257b3b005e343c/49b267f532b422d185257b6c0061a658?OpenDocument>

**4. Public Comment- The views and opinions expressed in this section are those of the individual speakers.**

Greg Meece spoke about Newark Charter School and how the 5-mile radius has aided in parental and community involvement in the school.

**5. Next Steps**

Next meeting: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Buck Library at Buena Vista.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.